

CONGRESSIONAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS  
CAUCUS AWARDS**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, to congratulate the winner of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Awards.

Congressman JIM COSTA of California and I are the co-founders and co-chairs of the Victims' Rights Caucus, a bi-partisan group of 60 members who work to be a voice for victims' rights in Congress and before the administration.

Last week, we honored six incredible individuals who have made a real difference in the lives of victims and have greatly influenced the victims' rights movement.

Some of the award recipients, including my nominee, Jess Smochek, were victims themselves and are now fighting for other victims' rights and changes in the system.

Jess was terribly beaten, raped, and left for dead while volunteering for the Peace Corps in Bangladesh.

The Peace Corps basically ignored Jess and did nothing to aid her in a time of great need.

Jess found out that other volunteers in the Peace Corps, who were victimized during their service, were treated the same way.

Instead of letting this go on, Jess took her awful experience and decided to advocate for a change in the Peace Corps policy toward victims.

Because of her bravery in speaking out about this tough issue, the national media and Congress are aware of this unacceptable matter and are working with her to push for changes in the Peace Corps.

We honored her with the Suzanne McDaniel Public Awareness Award because of her hard work to ensure no other selfless volunteer in the Peace Corps has to endure this treatment.

Helga Luest is another award recipient who chose to seek change in the system after having a traumatic experience as a crime victim.

After a brutal attack that almost cost her and her mother's lives, Helga began an organization called Witness Justice that works to help victims seek justice and experience healing.

She is able to help countless victims with her first-hand knowledge of trauma and its direct impact on the well being of the individual.

Helga received the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award because it truly takes a hero to rise up and use lessons from a terrible situation to help others.

We also recognized heroes in the victims' rights community that directly aid crime victims through their work at shelters and with programs that assist victims and facilitate healing.

Pam Kallsen, nominated by Victims' Rights Caucus Co-Chair Congressman JIM COSTA, is the Executive Director of the Marjaree Mason Center in California's Central Valley.

Through her leadership, the Center goes above and beyond traditional services providing legal representation, hotline services, and counseling sessions all of which are critical in responding to and preventing domestic and sexual abuse.

Another exceptional leader in the field is Mary Ellen Stone, the Executive Director of

the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) in Washington State, a position in which she has served since 1979.

Mary Ellen has not only helped KCSARC grow to be the largest sexual assault victims' service organization in the state but has also been involved in transforming the legal and political landscape of sexual assault violence in Washington and throughout the nation.

Without these exemplary individuals, many victims would have nowhere to turn when facing a difficult situation and that is why these two wonderful women received the Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy.

A leader on the public policy front, receiving the the Lois Haight Award for Excellence and Innovation is Susan Smith Howley, Director of Public Policy for the National Center for Victims of Crime.

She has devoted the past 20 years to the development and implementation of major crime victim related public policy initiatives at the local, state and national levels.

Not long ago crime victims had few to no rights, and we are still working hard to ensure victims receive all the care and compensation they deserve.

People like Susan, who work to ensure that the government protects innocent victims through creating and promoting innovative policies, are invaluable to victims throughout the country.

Our last award, the Allied Professional Award was presented to Nilda Valmores who has dedicated her life to helping victims of domestic violence.

The shelter where she serves as Executive Director, My Sister's House, focuses on the needs of immigrant Asian/Pacific Islander women and children.

Through Nilda's collaborations with organizations throughout her community, My Sister's House and the larger issue of domestic violence facing immigrant women has received much needed attention.

Congratulations to these amazing people, who are the reason why the victims' rights movement has made so much progress.

And that's just the way it is.

A TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH  
REDENBAUGH**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elizabeth Redenbaugh, of Wilmington, North Carolina, who has been named an honoree of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. On May 23, 2011, Mrs. Redenbaugh will be recognized for standing up to racial and socioeconomic segregation perceived in the New Hanover County school system.

The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation will be presenting the award. Caroline Kennedy, the President of the Foundation, has said of Mrs. Redenbaugh: "She boldly challenged the citizens of her community to preserve quality public education for all of New Hanover County's children regardless of race." In light of these acts, the foundation's committee saw fit to bestow upon Elizabeth

Redenbaugh what is generally seen as the highest honor available to United States public servants.

As well as serving on the New Hanover County School Board, Mrs. Redenbaugh practices as an attorney with Redenbaugh & Risser, PLLC. So committed is she to public service that she serves as a member of Parsley Elementary School's Site Based Management Team and PTA Board of Directors and also as a member of the New Hanover County Council of PTAs' Executive Board. Her tenacious efforts in Southeastern North Carolina are those of a true leader utterly dedicated to the betterment of local education, and her community as a whole.

Mrs. Redenbaugh's personal courage and political courage are to be congratulated. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing a local heroine, whose principled efforts in the face of robust opposition might serve as an example to us all. Let us celebrate a noble public servant, soon to be the recipient of an award intent on decorating those who choose principle over partisanship, a quality we should all strive to emulate for the good of the United States.

## DR. DAVID SVALDI TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. David Svaldi of Alamosa, Colorado. Dr. Svaldi was recently appointed to El Pomar Foundation's San Luis Valley Regional Council. As one of southern Colorado's most esteemed residents he will undoubtedly thrive in that position.

Dr. Svaldi is president of Adams State College, a job he balances with his other volunteer work. He sits on the boards of the area's Boys and Girls Club, Health Education Council and the Southern Colorado Education Consortium.

The education and health industries in southern Colorado are growing quickly. It is important that people like Dr. Svaldi, who have a history of involvement and success in those areas, lend their expertise to the growing infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, it is a honor to recognize Dr. David Svaldi today. He will continue to be a leader in his community and work to better the lives of his neighbors.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY UNDER  
ATTACK IN BAHRAIN**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deep concern regarding a serious human rights crisis that is currently unfolding in Bahrain, a strategic ally of the United States in the Middle East.

As Physicians for Human Rights has reported, the medical community in that country has come under attack by Bahraini authorities during the currently ongoing unrest, and doctors, nurses and emergency medical technicians have been arrested, detained, harassed